

**ABSTRACT**

5 A high density connector comprises a receptacle housing having a  
base wall and at least one lateral wall defining a cavity. The lateral wall  
is configured to nest within a plug housing. A high density array of  
female electrical contacts is arranged in the cavity which are supported  
in the base wall and extend unsupported above the base wall to a  
given height. A single piece protection member is arranged in the  
10 cavity adjacent the base wall. The protection member has an array of  
openings in which the electrical contacts extend. The protection  
member has a thickness selected so that the electrical contacts do not  
extend beyond an outer face of the protection member.

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